



August Calendar of Events

- Monday, August 3**
6:00PM Staff Parish Relations Committee
- Wednesday, August 5**
3:30PM Lay Leadership Committee
- Wednesday, August 12**
6:00PM District Set up Meeting
- Thursday, August 13**
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Food Pantry
- Sunday, August 16**
3:00PM Reception for New District Superintendent
New Life UMC
- Tuesday, August 25**
6:00PM Worship Committee
- Wednesday, August 26**
Shut-in meals delivered
- Thursday, August 27**
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Food Pantry
- Sunday, August 30**
Back to Bethel with covered dish meal

Ongoing Events

- Sundays**
- 9:00 AM - Sunday School
Choir practice
10:00 AM - Worship Service

August 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Vacations are a Problem

As various people come and go during the summer, invariably most of us express relief upon getting back home and even talk of being weary and “vacation tired”.

Vacations that are supposed to be relaxing, invigorating and renewing end up being difficult and self-indulgent. I always thought work was hard and relaxation easy, but I’ve about concluded just the opposite is true.

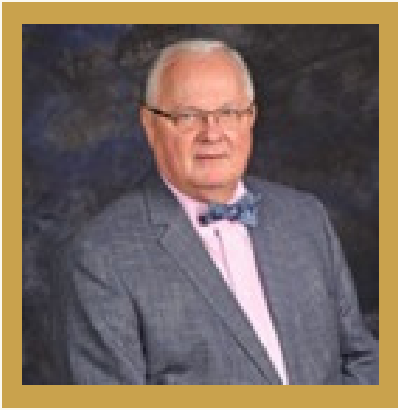
In my first pastoral appointment, I was preparing to leave on the first vacation I had taken in nearly four years, and a member of the congregation said to me, “Now, go and forget who you are!”

As Christians, we may add to our stress on vacations if we attempt to be something different. We may not be in our customary place on Sunday morning, but we need not try to avoid all semblance of who and what we are. To do so incurs guilt, and we end up feeling that something is terribly wrong.

The foundation for vacations is in the scripture. We are taught that times of rest are sacred. Israel was commanded to keep the Sabbath as a day of rest. Vacations can be tiring if we fear the unstructured time and find it hard to change our peace.

Moreover, we generally expect a vacation to allow us to do what we want, and self-indulgence is the very opposite of Christian life which has unselfish love at its center.

So, vacations are not unchristian, but they can be a problem. In these waning days of summer, I hope you can make the most of yours and that you will be with us in church when you’re in town.



Reverend Tresco E. Shannon

- Tresco E. Shannon

In Our Prayers

Shut-ins/ Nursing Home/Distant Members

Joyce Breland, Jane Brown, Roger Crook, Nina Crosby, Sarah Anne Dean, Lynn Harrison, Joy Lawson, Vera Newington, Jeanine Price, Rusty Riddle, Kay Speaks, Miriam Westbury, Martha Woodard

Military Service

Cody Keeney, Elijah and Kaeleigh Forni, Jackson Long, Matthew Mangum, Jordan Ray



*In memory of Johnny & Paige Peurifoy
given by DeLoris and Brandy*

*In memory of Ralph Spomer (Mary Wynn's father)
given by Tony & DeLoris Hamilton*

A Living Tribute

Week by week, the flowers on our altar quietly remind us that faith continues to bloom through love, gratitude, and remembrance.

Whether celebrating a birthday or anniversary, honoring a loved one, remembering someone special, or simply giving thanks for God's many blessings, altar flowers offer a beautiful expression of worship and devotion.

As summer begins to yield its abundance, the sunflowers and blossoms of August remind us that every season bears fruit when rooted in God's grace. In the same way, each gift placed before the Lord becomes a testimony of hope, generosity, and enduring faith.

If you would like to sponsor the altar flowers in memory or in honor of someone special, please contact the church office. We would be delighted to help you share your tribute with our church family.

The Face of Christ They See

Children are always watching. Long before they can read our creeds or recite our prayers, they are learning who Jesus is by the way we live, the way we speak, and how we treat others.

They notice the kindness we show, the patience we offer, the welcome we extend, and the forgiveness we give. They feel when they are noticed, valued, and loved.

For a young heart, these moments become the building blocks of faith. Children may not yet understand every story of Scripture, but they understand a smile that invites them in, a hand that helps them, and a heart that listens.

When we make room for children in our church, our homes, and our daily lives, we are not simply teaching them about Jesus—we are showing them Jesus.

May the children in our care see in us a glimpse of the Christ who welcomed them, blessed them, and called them near.





Laundry Day

Every quarter makes a difference!

Bethel's Laundry Day ministry is coming up this month, and you can help provide clean clothes for families in our community. We invite everyone to bring quarters for the offering, although bills are always welcome, too!

Your gifts help share Christ's love in a simple but meaningful way—one load of laundry at a time.



Back to Bethel

Sunday, August 30 • Following Worship

Celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of a new season together at our Back to Bethel covered dish lunch!

Enjoy delicious food and wonderful fellowship as we gather around the table as a church family. Bethel will provide the meat and macaroni & cheese.

Please bring your favorite side dish, salad, or dessert to share. We hope you'll invite a friend and join us as we celebrate being together again!



Glory Group

First Monday Fellowship

Looking for good conversation, encouragement, and Christian fellowship? Glory Group resumes meeting on Tuesday, September 1, at 12:00 noon.

Join us for a devotional, a delicious lunch, and a wonderful time of fellowship. Whether you've attended before or are joining us for the first time, we'd love to welcome you!



Wednesday Night Suppers

Food • Fellowship • Faith

Our Wednesday Night Suppers return on Wednesday, September 9, from 5:30–6:30 PM!

Join us for a delicious meal, warm fellowship, and an opportunity to reconnect with your church family as we begin a new season together.

Menus will be announced soon, so watch the bulletin and Sunday announcements for details.

We look forward to gathering around the table with you!



Pastor's Bible Study

Grow in God's Word

Pastor Shannon's Wednesday Bible Study resumes Wednesday, September 9!

Choose the session that best fits your schedule:
Morning Session: 10:30–11:30 AM
Evening Session: 6:30–7:30 PM

Whether you're a longtime participant or joining for the first time, everyone is welcome. Come grow in faith, deepen your understanding of Scripture, and enjoy meaningful discussion together.



Ginny Bishop - Director and K4 Teacher

Bethel Preschool is delighted to welcome Ginny Bishop as our Preschool Director and K4 Teacher. Ginny has been a part of the Bethel Preschool family for the past three years and is passionate about creating a classroom where every child feels loved, encouraged, and excited to learn.

Ginny and her husband live in Ruffin with their three boys. As a family, they enjoy spending time outdoors and are always looking forward to their next adventure. She brings that same sense of joy, curiosity, and enthusiasm into the classroom each day.

When she's not at preschool, you'll likely find her enjoying a plate of spaghetti, decorating for Halloween or Christmas, or spending time with family. Ginny looks forward to partnering with parents as she helps each child grow academically, socially, and spiritually in a Christ-centered environment.



Shannon Pruitt K3 Teacher

Bethel Preschool is pleased to welcome Shannon Pruitt as our K3 Teacher. This is Shannon's second full year of teaching at Bethel, but her connection to the preschool goes back much further—she attended Bethel Preschool herself as a young child. That lifelong connection gives her a special appreciation for the nurturing, Christ-centered environment that has been part of the preschool for generations.

Shannon loves helping children discover the world around them in fun, safe, and engaging ways. She and her husband, Cody, are the proud parents of two daughters, Norah and Josie. When they're not in the classroom, the Pruitt family enjoys spending time together, especially trips to the beach in search of shark teeth.

A fan of her mother's Thanksgiving dressing, the color purple, and everything about Halloween, Shannon brings warmth, creativity, and enthusiasm to her classroom. She is excited to welcome her students and help them grow through a wonderful year of learning, discovery, and faith.



Hannah Stone K2 Teacher

Bethel Preschool is delighted to welcome Hannah Stone as our K2 Teacher. Hannah is excited to begin a new school year filled with learning, laughter, and discovery as she helps our youngest students take their first steps in a Christ-centered classroom.

Hannah and her husband live in Walterboro and are the proud parents of twin boys, Weston and Waylon. As a mother herself, she understands the importance of providing a loving, encouraging environment where children feel safe, valued, and excited to learn.

Whether sharing story time, exploring new activities, or celebrating everyday milestones, Hannah looks forward to helping each child grow with confidence and joy. Away from the classroom, she enjoys spending time with her family, eating any kind of pasta, loves the color turquoise, and especially looks forward to celebrating Christmas each year.



Ariel Harrelson K2 Teacher

Bethel Preschool is excited to welcome Ariel Harrelson as one of our K2 teachers. Ariel looks forward to helping her students learn through hands-on activities, creative play, and the joy of discovering something new each day in a loving, Christ-centered classroom.

Ariel is the proud mother of four daughters—Zoe, Hayden, Hazel, and Maggie—and knows firsthand the importance of creating a safe, encouraging environment where children can grow with confidence. Originally from Beaufort, she now calls Green Pond home and enjoys spending time outdoors with her family. Whether hunting duck and deer or making memories together, she values the adventures that family life brings.

A fan of chocolate, Dr Pepper, peach Red Bull, the color teal, and all things Christmas, Ariel brings warmth, enthusiasm, and a caring heart to Bethel Preschool. She is excited to welcome a new class of students and partner with families as they begin another wonderful school year.

“Mama, Jesus is Bald-headed”

Some years ago, a new child in the three-year old church school class in a church I served startled his mother on the way home from church after their first Sunday. “Mama,” he said rather casually from the back seat of the car, “Jesus is bald-headed.”

The shocked mother pressed the matter a bit to see if this was some new theology being taught to her child. “Is this what they told you?” she asked.

“No,” said little Lee, “I saw him, he was in the room.” You would understand this immediately if you saw my friend, Andy Farmer. Andy hasn’t had a hair on his head, as far as I know, since he was twenty-five.

This particular incident is a wonderful example of how we often represent the Christ to young ears and eyes. It can be frightening to realize that what children see in us may be their only cue to the nature of our Lord when he walked on this earth.

As we are beginning a new school year, let us all resolve to be very careful about the image of Christ we may be forming in the children of this community committed to our care.

To a three-year old, Jesus may be bald-headed or grey, slightly rotund and middle-aged, or blond, shapely and young.

To a three-year old, Jesus is - - - whatever we are! Think about it.

- Tresco E. Shannon



Celebrating Our Bethel Family



Birthdays



Anniversaries

August 1	Caroline Magus Inglis Mangum Angie Stephens	18	Jeffrey Herndon
		19	Erin Johnston
3	Anne Biggers Kristen Murdaugh Faith Stephens	20	Sharon Courtney Caroline Molinari Marie Molinari
4	Alta Mae Marvin	21	Steve Crosby
6	Matt Parler Chris Rowe	22	Lisa Mitchell
		25	Robert Bonds Bill Stephens Aaron Zelmer Daron Zelmer
9	Tom Whitacre		
11	Jennifer Dean John Kinard	26	Sean Fanchette Dallas Murray
13	Audie Williams		
15	Jesse Payne Baines Pierce	27	Stewart Goodwin
		30	Jake Burttram Matt McLaine
16	Mary Wynn Chamblin Graham Drawdy	31	Lori Bell Nina Crosby Troy Edwards

August 6	Seth & Kristy Harris
7	Duncan & Cindy Hunt
9	Buzz & Johnnie Benson
11	Chris & Linda Corbett
13	Whit & Nancy Spell Scott & Teresa Wachter
15	Bob & Lori Bellamy Donald & Tammy Crosby
23	Bill & Gail Howell

